

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1. Claims 2 through 30 were previously cancelled. Please insert new claims 31 through 55 as set forth below:

Claims 1 through 30: **Cancelled**

31. (New) A spinning machine drafting device, comprising:

a roller pair including a pressure roller loaded against a lower roller such that a fiber structure is conveyed between said roller pair for drafting;

an inner layer of a deformable flexible material attached completely around the circumference of said pressure roller without relative movement between said inner layer and said pressure roller;

an outer circumferential layer of a generally inelastic material disposed around at least a portion of the outer circumference of said inner layer, said outer layer being thinner than said inner layer and disposed around said inner layer so as to slide relative to said inner layer upon rotation of said pressure roller in operation of said drafting device.

32. (New) The drafting device as in claim 31, wherein said outer layer comprises a casing that completely surrounds said inner layer.

33. (New) The drafting device as in claim 31, wherein said outer layer comprises an endless belt that runs in a traveling direction around a circumferential portion of said pressure roller.

34. (New) The drafting device as in claim 31, wherein said outer layer comprises an inner run material disposed against said inner layer, and an outer fiber contact material that contacts a fiber structure conveyed between said roller pair.

35. (New) The drafting device as in claim 34, wherein said inner run material is formed of a smooth low friction material to facilitate relative sliding movement between said outer and inner layers.

36. (New) The drafting device as in claim 35, wherein said outer layer comprises substantially no expansion in a direction transverse to the rotational axis of said pressure roller.

37. (New) The drafting device as in claim 36, further comprising an insert material disposed between said inner run material and said outer fiber contacting material, said insert material formed of a material to minimize expansion of said outer layer in the direction transverse to the rotational axis of said pressure roller.

38. (New) The drafting device as in claim 35, wherein said outer fiber contacting material is formed of a high frictional material as compared to said inner run material to facilitate clamping of a fiber structure.

39. (New) The drafting device as in claim 31, wherein said outer layer comprises an endless belt that runs in a traveling direction around a circumferential portion of said pressure roller, and further comprising a deflection rail disposed to guide said endless belt in said traveling direction.

40. (New) The drafting device as in claim 39, wherein said deflection rail comprises a rounded surface formed of a low friction material in an area where said endless belt contacts and is deflected by said deflection rail.

41. (New) The drafting device as in claim 39, wherein said deflection rail is resiliently mounted so as to apply a tensioning force to said endless belt.

42. (New) The drafting device as in claim 39, wherein said deflection rail comprises lateral side rims for lateral guidance of said endless belt.

43. (New) The drafting device as in claim 42, wherein said lateral sides rims are configured to encapsulate space between said deflection rail and said pressure roller and surrounded by said endless belt.

44. (New) The drafting device as in claim 39, wherein said endless belt is guided at an angle away from a running plane of the fiber structure at an angle of greater than about 30 degrees with respect to the running plane of the fiber structure.

45. (New) The drafting device as in claim 39, wherein said endless belt comprises an outer fiber contacting material having dimensions so as to be asymmetric relative to the dimensions of the fiber structure so that an unused portion of said outer fiber contacting material is provided in use of said drafting device, wherein said endless belt is repositioned to bring said unused portion into contact with the fiber structure.

46. (New) An outer layer component for use in a covering combination over a pressure roller of a pair of rollers in a drafting device for spinning machines, wherein the covering combination includes an inner layer formed of a flexible and deformable material disposed entirely around the pressure roller with essentially no relative movement between the pressure roller and inner layer, and the outer layer component is disposed around at least a portion of the circumference of the inner layer and slides relative to the inner layer upon rotation of the pressure roller in operation of the drafting device, said outer layer component formed from a generally inelastic material and being thinner than the inner layer said covering comprising substantially no expansion in a direction transverse to the rotational axis of said pressure roller.

47. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 46, wherein said component is a casing configured to fit completely around the pressure roller.

48. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 46, wherein said component is an endless belt that runs in a traveling direction around a circumferential portion of the pressure roller.

49. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 46, comprising an inner run material disposed to lie against the inner layer of the covering combination, and an outer fiber contact material that contacts a fiber structure conveyed against the pressure roller.

50. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 49, wherein said inner run material is formed of a smooth low friction material to facilitate relative sliding movement between said outer and inner layers.

51. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 49, further comprising an insert material disposed between said inner run material and said outer fiber contacting material, said insert material formed of a material to minimize expansion of said outer layer in the direction transverse to the rotational axis of the pressure roller.

52. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 49, wherein said outer fiber contacting material is formed of a high frictional material as compared to said inner run material to facilitate clamping of a fiber structure.

53. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 52, wherein said inner run material has a frictional value of about one-half the frictional value of said outer fiber contacting material.

54. (New) The outer layer component as in claim 46, wherein said component is an endless belt that runs in a traveling direction around a circumferential portion of the pressure roller, said endless belt comprising an outer fiber contacting material having dimensions so as to be asymmetric relative to the dimensions of the fiber

structure so that an unused portion of said outer fiber contacting material is provided in use of said drafting device, wherein said endless belt is repositioned to bring said unused portion into contact with the fiber structure.

55. A method for manufacturing the outer layer component of claim 51, comprising applying the inner layer onto a tubular body having a circumference equal to a desired inner circumferential dimension of the endless belt, applying the insert material in the form of a yarn wrapped over the inner layer; applying the outer layer over the yarn insert material; and removing the endless belt from the tubular body.